

May 20, 2014

Governor John Kitzhaber
State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE, 160
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Kitzhaber,

I am writing to express support for a local nomination of a National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) in the Cape Blanco region. Since the idea surfaced last summer, our community has been polarized by a few individuals strongly opposed to the idea. However, there are many people in the community who quietly support the concept and who would like to learn more. I have always supported asking the question, "Would a NMS be a good fit for Port Orford?" In my opinion, this concept deserves consideration and a nomination would ensure that it would be vetted through NOAA's very public process.

Mayor Auburn had hoped to fairly examine this concept and last Fall proposed forming an exploratory committee with members from the community on all sides of the issue. The idea was for this committee to research facts and present them to the community. The Port Orford City Council, which I am a member of, voted against creating this public process in which members of our community could come together and receive answers to their questions from individuals that have factual information regarding the nomination, designation and implementation process. I did not vote in favor of this nor did I vote in favor of the recently passed resolution opposing a NMS. Unfortunately, Mayor Auburn's dedication to exploring idea nearly cost him his tenure as mayor.

I am also a Port Commissioner and I work in the fishing industry here in Port Orford in sales and marketing. Bottom line, I sell fish that is harvested, landed and processed right here in Port Orford. Our ocean and natural resources are very important to our community. I care deeply about our fisheries, habitat and the species that we harvest. A NMS might help to support our efforts to manage and market our fisheries on a sustainable basis and help alleviate our current economic situation in Curry County by attracting visitors, providing education and outreach and bringing research dollars to our community.

As an elected official myself, I appreciate the countless hours you invest in all Oregonians. Please consider carefully your position on having a public process and vetting the question, "Is a NMS the right thing for our community?"

Respectfully,


Dianne Schofield